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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
Yousuki Moriuchi et al.
Application No.: 10/044,969
Filing Date: January 15, 2002
Title: STENT



MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
Group Art Unit: 3773
Examiner: DARWIN P EREZO
Confirmation No.: 2991

FOURTH
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a FOURTH Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application.

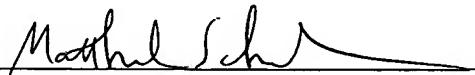
- ☐ No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required.
- ☐ The fee of \$ 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed.
- ☒ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and the fee of \$ 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are also enclosed.
- ☒ Charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.
- ☐ Charge _____ to credit card for the fee due. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date July 17, 2008

By:


Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620

In re Patent Application of

A circular black ink stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "JUL 17 2008" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. A small number "2" is visible to the left of the stamp.

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, applicants hereby cite a document identified in an Official Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office on June 10, 2008, concerning the priority Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-006759 in conformance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98. A copy of the Japanese Official Action and an English translation thereof are attached hereto.

Applicants note that one of the documents identified as a "Reference Cited" in the Japanese Official Action, i.e., International Patent Application No. WO 99/11197 was previously cited and a copy provided with the First Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on April 8, 2002, and is thus not cited herein.

With respect to the International application publication cited on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (i.e., WO 00/02502), two U. S. family members of this document were cited by the Examiner during prosecution of the present application -- US 6,261,319 B1 was cited on Form PTO-892 accompanying the Official Action mailed April 13, 2007, and US 6,478,816 B2 was cited on Form PTO-892 accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed June 29, 2008. However, to date, WO 00/02502 has not been cited and so the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) set forth below is believed proper.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of the document cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted after the close of prosecution but prior to, or concurrently with, the payment of the issue fee, therefore under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) a statement and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are enclosed.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, hereby state in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 17, 2008

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